

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Ridgecrest City Hall 100 W California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 760-499-5000

October 17, 2017

Trevor Joseph
Sustainable groundwater Management Section Chief
California Department of Water Resources
P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Notice of Intent to Develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Indian Wells Valley
Groundwater Basin

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Pursuant to California Water code Section 10727.8 and the California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 353.6, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is hereby given notice that the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) intends to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the entire Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (NO. 6-054) underlying the IWVGA boundaries. The IWVGA functions as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Basin. The IWVGA received exclusive GSA status by DWR on April 4, 2017.

The IWVGA holds regular monthly meetings at the offices of the City of Ridgecrest, and welcomes participation in the ongoing planning and development activities of the GSA. All notes from planning meetings prior to GSA formation and agendas, minutes, and GSA formaton documents are published on the IWVGA website at <https://www.kerncounty.com/WaterResources.aspx>.

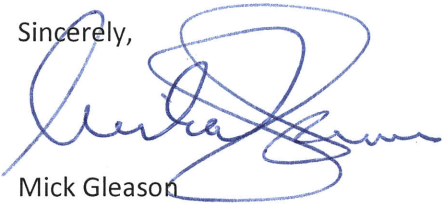
The IWVGA has been supported in outreach efforts by a diverse and engaged public. A variety of stakeholder groups have formed to organize and educate their neighbors and business interests on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) process. They include, but are not limited to, the Indian Wells Valley Domestic Well Owners Association, property owners who grow commercial agricultural crops both large and small, small hobby farms and equestrian operations, a public water agency with over 10,700 residential customers/connections, business interests, industrial and wholesaler representatives (such as Searles Valley Minerals), the Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors, and the Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District.

The City of Ridgecrest, Indian Wells Valley Water District, and Inyokern Community Services District all have special committees and representatives educating and representing the property owners in the valley. The newly formed Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) has representation from business owners, economic development, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, and the Bureau of Land Management along with Kern County planning staff support. Outreach to the tribes in the three county areas of Inyo,

Kern, and San Bernardino is being made to ensure that all interests are included and able to participate in formulating the GSP. Our valley of over 225,000 acres includes designated disadvantaged communities, and the inclusion of all points of view in developing the plan is a central tenant of the jurisdictions participating in the Authority.

The IWVGA looks forward to engaging the public and developing a GSP collaboratively with all stakeholders. Should you have any questions, please contact Steve Johnson of Stetson Engineers, who serves as the Water Resources Manager for the IWVGA, at (626) 967-6202. Stetson is currently coordinating a Proposition 1 application through your Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Mick Gleason
Chairman

cc IWVGA Board Members
 Alan Christensen, General Manager
 Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers, Inc.
 Phillip Hall, IWVGA Legal Counsel
 Adam Bingham, TAC Chair
 Donna Thomas, PAC Chair

ATTACHMENT A

Outreach strategy components for how interested parties and the public may participate in Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Development – Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) October 12, 2017

For inclusion as an Attachment to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Notice of Intent to Develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan

- 1) Organizational newsletters from PAC represented stakeholder groups – such as the newsletter circulated by the Domestic Well Owners Association
- 2) Farm Bureau outreach by Small Ag and Large Ag PAC representatives
- 3) Mailer/postcard to every property owner in the Indian Wells Valley, Trona, and Pearsonville area announcing the start of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development
- 4) Bureau of Land Management advisory PAC representative to provide contacts for outreach to tribes
- 5) Development of a website dedicated to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan/Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSP/GSA) process; offer of donation of \$1500 by Mojave Pistachios for the website development
- 6) Facebook page dedicated to GSP/GSA; ads and announcements placed on other Facebook pages
- 7) Post a schedule with dates for Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings and Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Board of Directors meetings where members of public can provide input
- 8) Outreach to keep Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group, also called Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), apprised of Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) efforts
- 9) Organize a public workshop in the evening (with a facilitator conducting the meeting) every quarter or every 6 months to inform the public about Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development and offer opportunity for public participation
- 10) Outreach to keep State legislators (Jean Fuller 16th Senatorial District, Tom Berryhill 8th Senatorial District; and Vince Fong 34th Assembly District, Jay Obernolte 33rd Assembly District, and Devon J. Mathis 26th Assembly District) informed about GSP development and implementation,
- 11) Outreach to keep Federal legislators (Kevin McCarthy, 23rd Congressional District, and Paul Cook, 8th Congressional District for San Bernardino County and Inyo County; and Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, U. S. Senators) informed about GSP development and implementation
- 12) Regular coverage of PAC, TAC, and IWVGA Board of Directors meetings and issues by local newspapers – The News-Review and The Daily Independent
- 13) PAC members regularly reporting updates and issues to the constituent stakeholder groups that they represent
- 14) PAC members' implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) guidance documents for Communication and Engagement provided by the California Department of Water Resources and the Community Water Center